

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9158

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 6277

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, BG

SUBJ: EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES TO RESTORE DISCIPLINE

1. AS PART OF THEIR EFFORTS TO RESTORE
DISCIPLINE

WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, LEADERS OF THE BANGLADESH
MILITARY SERVICES HAVE APPARENTLY BEGUN TO TAKE ACTION
AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN THE NOVEMBER 3 COUP AND
VARIOUS UNLAWFUL OR DILOYAL ACTS COMMITTED ON AND
AFTER NOVEMBER 7.

ACCORDING TO CANTONMENT SOURCES,
THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES (1) HAVE COURT MARTIALLED
EIGHT AIR FORCE MEN WHO SUPPORTED KHALID MOSHARRAF;
(2) HAVE ARRESTED SOME NAVY MEN INVOLVED IN THE DISTUR-
BANCES AT CHITTAGONG, INCLUDING THE BASE COMMANDER;
AND (3) ARE CONTINUING TO ARREST ARMY PERSONNEL, BOTH
THOSE WHO SUPPORTED KHALID AND THOSE BELIEVED TO BE
ASSOCIATED WITH THE JSD.

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2. OF THE EIGHT AIR MEN COURT MARTIALLED, WE UNDERSTAND

ONE WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH (SQUADRON LEADER LIQUAT, WHO FLEW THE MIG 21 IN SUPPORT OF KHALID MOSHARRAF NOVEMBER 3), SEVERAL TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT (INCLUDING FLIGHTLIEUTENANT WALI WHO FLEW A HELICOPTER GUNSHIP ON NOVEMBER 3), AND THE OTHERS TO VARYING TERMS UP TO 10 YEARS. REPORTEDLY AIR VICE MARTIAL TAWAB HAS COMMUTED THE DEATH SENTENCE TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT AND ALSO REDUCED THE OTHERS SENTENCES.

3. ON DECEMBER 14, EIGHT OR NINE NAVAL MEN AT CHITTAGONG WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY; INCLUDING AMONG THOS ARRESTED WAS THE BASE COMMANDER, COMMANDER RAUF, ALSO NOTABLE AS A CON-DEFENDANT OF THE LATE SHEKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN IN THE AGARTALA CONSPIRACY CASE. THE IDENTITIES OF THE OTHERS IS STILL UNKNOWN, BUT TWO AMONG THE OFFICERS SIEZED ARE SAID TO BE THE SONS-IN-LAW OF DR. NAWAB ALI, AN ARMY PHYSICAIN.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW THE NUMBER OF THE ARMY PERSONNEL ARRESTED TO DATE BUT HAVE HEARD THAT AUTHORITIES ARE SEEKING BOTH SUPPORTERS OF KHALID MOSHARRAF AND ADHERENTS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY (JSD), WHICH ATTEMPTED TO CAPITALIZED ON THE "SEPOY REVOLUTION" OF NOVEMBER 7. THE ARMY'S TASK IS APPARENTLY COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT SOME OF THOSE SOUGHT HAVE DESERTED. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE ARMY MAY WISH TO COURT-MARTIAL KHALID'S SUPPORTERS FIRST BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO TRY ANY JAWANS FOR COMPLICITY IN THE DEATHS OF ARMY OFFICERS AND OTHERS ON AND AFTER NOVEMBER 7. PERHAPS UNPREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR OWN SHARE IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOSS OF CONTROL OVER THE SEPOYS, THE ARMY LEADERS SEEM TO BE PLACING BLAME FOR THE MURDERS OF OFFICERS ON JSD ELEMENTS RATHER THAN ON ORDINARY JAWANS.

CHESLAW

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